

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on May 12, 2006, the Examiner objected to the title as being allegedly non-descriptive; objected to claim 1 for a minor informality; rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Mazura (U.S. Patent No. 5,297,004); rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Koplin (U.S. Patent No. 6,554,697); and objected to claim 5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends the title in accordance with the Examiner's request. Applicant also amends claim 1 and cancels claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1 and 4 are currently pending. Of these claims, claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 5. While Applicant does not necessarily agree that the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed invention as set forth in independent claim 1, solely in the interests of expediting the prosecution of this application, Applicant has rewritten independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for at least all of the reasons for which this base claim is patentable.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, and/or drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 18, 2006

By: /David W. Hill/
David W. Hill
Reg. No. 28,220